517 other densely populated areas, and almost every
545 rural community has an amateur company whose performances sometimes are surprisingly
545 polished and skilled. In 1951-52 there were 33
545 government-subsidized professional theaters, 3 of them performing in Swedish, and 73 workers' amateur companies and 2400 groups of actors giving regular performances under
546 the sponsorship of different societies. During the same season there were 505 motion picture theaters, about one-tenth of them in Helsinki.
517 Handicraft and reading are still considered a good way to spend long winter evenings, not to speak of radio-listening, which during the last few decades has become a very important source of entertainment as well as of information.

527 Special holidays are observed in both rural and urban areas. The most important among

527 these are Christmas, Shrove Tuesday, Easter and Midsummer, each one celebrated with its special forms of entertainment and traditional food. At Midsummer the rooms are decorated with fresh birch leaves, bonfires burn on the shores, and young people spend the short hours of the "nightless night" with song and dancing. The patterns of celebration are very much the same as in Scandinavia, although there are some differences, e.g. in the traditional dishes and decoration.

77/ Traditional beliefs and superstitions have little importance in the Finnish society of today. although the ancient poetry bears witness to an extraordinarily fertile imagination, the present-day Finns are apt to take a logical and practical view of most phenomena.

drinking at 10:00 A. M. and 3:00 P. M., and the coffee pot is kept warm on the hearth all day long. Among city people these times differ slightly. The first meal of the day, at 7:00 or 8:00, is very light, and breakfast--or lunch--is eaten at 11:00 o'clock, while dinner, the principle meal of the day, follows at 4:00 or 5:00 P. M. The high point of the day is the afternoon coffee, around 1:00 or 2:00 P. M. Coffee parties are frequent, and the hostess prides herself on the multitude of cakes, cookies and tarts she has baked, especially on a "name day" celebration. (Finland and Sweden have a calendar in which each day is dedicated to a different personal name, and these occasions are observed much more carefully than birthdays.)

In the country important occasions, such as weddings, anniversaries and even funerals, are

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followed by a big dinner which begins with the smörgasbord, with its multitude of smoked and jellied fish, cold cuts and casseroles--actually a meal in itself. The other courses consist of beef bouillon with small meat pies, cooked or fried fish, pot roast and a dessert, nowadays usually ice cream instead of the traditional rice pudding with fruit sauce. The holiday dishes are partly the same as in Sweden: at Christmas, lye-fish (lutfisk in Swedish), roast ham, rice pudding and tarts filled with stewed prunes; on Shrove Tuesday pea soup, pigs' feet and buns filled with marzipan. There is a very special Finnish Easter dish, a kind of baked pudding made of rye flour, malts and seasoning, and eaten with cream and sugar. The first of May calls for the traditional drink of mead, and Midsummer is the day for frying the crisp, paper-thin pancakes,

which are the favorite dessert all over Scandinavia.

As indicated in Subparagraph 1m, Finland is partly dependent on her imports for meeting the demand for cereals. In dairy products she is self-sufficient (before World War II she was even an exporter of these products), but, without fodder from abroad, the productivity of the dairy industry is bound to decline sharply. The cultivation of the sugar beet has greatly increased, but is still unable to meet native consumption. Other articles that must be imported are fruits, coffee and tobacco. The forests of Finland abound in wild berries, which bring a welcome variety to the diet, and currants, strawberries and raspberries are common in most gardens. But the only fruit tree that, at least occasionally, gives good crops in southern